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PRESS RELEASE

FOOD SECURITY COMMITMENT BRINGS USAID OFFICIALS TO BANGLADESH

DHAKA, OCTOBER 20 -- Paul Weisenfeld, Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau of Food Security, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Dina Esposito, Director of the Office of Food for Peace, USAID, arrive in Dhaka on Saturday, October 22. During their five-day visit the delegation will highlight continued U.S. Government assistance for country-led strategies that address the root causes of hunger and food insecurity.

In addition to meeting key officials of the Government of Bangladesh, the delegation will visit USAID projects in the Barisal and Khulna regions to assess USAID's current field activities and near-term plans for expanded investments in food security. They will meet with farmers producing high-yielding crops with less use of fertilizer; interact with shrimp farmers using new scientific techniques to increase production; and meet with researchers and visit trial plots to observe the progress of generating high-yielding varieties for crops such as rice and maize. The delegation will also meet with beneficiaries trained by USAID to produce vegetables in their home gardens.

The visit builds on the May 2010 "Food Security Investment Forum" that brought together the Government of Bangladesh, USAID and other stakeholders and launched the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative in Bangladesh.

Paul Weisenfeld leads President Barack Obama's Feed the Future Initiative, a \$3.5 billion effort to tackle global food security challenges in seven countries worldwide. Dina Esposito oversees the Agency's food assistance programming spanning 46 countries worldwide and valued at approximately \$2.1 billion annually.

The U.S. Government through USAID has provided over \$5.8 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In addition to providing immediate food assistance, USAID has provided significant contributions to Bangladesh to encourage higher education in agriculture and develop agricultural research facilities. U.S. Government assistance helped establish the Wheat Research Center, the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research council. Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1962, USAID marks its 50th

anniversary as an agency in 2012. Across the globe, USAID's 110 missions will be celebrating USAID's 50th Anniversary throughout the year with in-country activities.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)